

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 AID-20 EUR-25 NIC-01 ACDA-19 SAM-01

SAJ-01 SAB-01 IO-14 /180 W

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R 271425Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8620

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AEEMBASSY DAMASCUS 277

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, EG

SUBJ: SADAT MEETS WITH EGYPTIAN STUDENTS

REF: CAIRO 6306; 6495

1. PRESIDENT SADAT CONTINUED HIS PUBLIC EXPOSURE AUGUST 26 AT A MEETING WITH 280 CHAIRMEN AND MEMBERS OF EGYPTIAN STUDENT FEDERATIONS IN ALEXANDRIA. SADAT AGAIN REPLIED TO QUESTIONS FROM THE GROUP AND MADE SEVERAL NOTEWORTHY COMMENTS WHICH WE REPORT FOR THE RECORD IN THIS MESSAGE. ALL PAPERS SELECTED TO HEADLINE STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT THAT EGYPT INTENDED TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND THAT SHE WAS NOT "GIVING UP ONE FRIEND FOR ANOTHER". GUMHURIYYA AND AKHBAR PROVIDE LESS THAN FULL COVERAGE WHILE AHRAH HAS ALMOST ENTIRE PAGE ON PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT.

2. ARMS-PRESIDENT SADAT ANNOUNCED THAT NEW PLANES WERE ON THE WAY TO EGYPT TO MAKE UP FOR THOSE LOST DURING THE OCTOBER

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WAR. PLANES WERE PURCHASED FOR EGYPT BY "A NUMBER OF ARAB BROTHERS" BECAUSE EGYPT DID NOT RECEIVE ONE PLANE FROM THE

SOVIET UNION FOR THE PAST ELEVEN MONTHS. (SEE DAP 0538 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT.)

3. ARAB SOLIDARITY- PRESIDENT SADAT CONTINUED TO HAMMER AWAY AT HIS THEME THAT THE PARTIES TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE MUST PRESENT A UNITED FRONT. HE ONCE AGAIN SINGLED OUT THE JORDANIAN/PALESTINIAN DISAGREEMENT AS THE MOST IMPORTANT "GAP" IN ARAB SOLIDARITY AND EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS TO BRIDGE THIS GAP THAT HE HAD MET WIT KING HUSSEIN IN JULY. IN ANSWER TO SPATE OF CRITICISM OVER THE ALEXANDRIA COMMUNIQUE, SADAT SAID THAT EGYPT PAYS NO ATTENTION TO THESE CAMPAIGNS OF WORDS BUT NOW ALL ARE BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND THE REAL MEANING OF OUR POSITION AND DESIRE TO REMOVE CONTRADICTIONS AND BRING ABOUT RECONCILIATION IN THESE POSITIONS.

4. RELATIONS WITH AMERICAN AND SOVIET UNION-SADAT SAID THAT EGYPT HAD ACHIEVED A CHANGE IN THE US STAND FOLLOWING THE OCTOBER WAR "WHICH WAS NOT JUST A DECISION BY A PRESIDENT OR A SECRETARY OF STATE, IT WAS A DECISION OF NUMEROUS AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS" AS A RESULT OF THE WAR. HE SAID THAT EGYPT MUST EXERT EFFORTS TO DEEPEN THIS CHANGE IN THE US POLICY. REVIEWING RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION, THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT SOME WHO ARE CRITICIZING EGYPT ERR IN ASSUMING THAT EGYPT HAS CHANGED FROM ONE FRIEND TO ANOTHER. HE AFFIRMED EGYPT'S "KEENESS" TO BE ON GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL MAJOR COUNTRIES,BUT NEVER TO "ALIGN" WITH THEM AND THEREFORE RESTRICT NATIONAL FREEDOM. HE POINTED OUT THAT SOVIETS HAVE NOT MADE UP ARMS LOSSES SINCE OCTOBER WAR AND THAT EVEN FM FAHMY VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION HAD BEEN FORMALLY AGREED UPON IT WAS POSTPONED SUDDENLY AND INDEFINITELY. NEVERTHELESS, SADAT SAID, IT IS NOT IN OUR INTEREST TO BE HOSTILE TOWARD ANY POWER.

5. RELATIONS WITH LIBYA. IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS REGARDING FREEDOM OF PRESS AND CRITICISM OF NASSER BY ALI AND MUSTAFA AMIN, SADAT APPEALED TO THE STUDENTS NOT TO BE DISTURBED BY "THE MAN WHO DECLARES HIMSELF IN CHARGE OF ARAB NATIONALISM AFTER NASSER", IN CLEAR REFERENCE TO LIBYAN LEADER QADHAAFI. SADAT THEN EXPLAINED THE VISIT OF QADHAAFI TO EGYPT (CAIRO 6306), ALTHOUGH PRESS DID NOT CARRY DETAILS, AND SAID THAT HIGH LEVEL DELEGATION WILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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BE GOING TO LIBYA ON SEPTEMBER 1 TO "DISCUSS GOOD NEIGHBORLINESS".

6. FREEDOM OF PRESS. SADAT SAID THAT HE WAS NOT HAPPY WITH THE "UNSOOUND TUNE" PLAYED BY THE PRESS. HE SAID THAT THE PRESS IS IGNORING THE FACT THAT WE HAVE ENTERED THE RECONSTRUCTION BATTLE TOGETHER WITH THE DEVELOPMENT BATTLE AND THAT WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO SOLVE ALL THE PROBLEMS AS QUICKLY AS WE MIGHT WANT. HE SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO PUT RESTRICTIONS ON THE PRESS BUT HE URGED THE PRESS TO BE EXPRESSIVE OF THE BATTLE OF "THE SECOND CROSSING" MAINLY THE PREPARATION FROM NOW UNTIL 1975 TO BEGIN THE

FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

7. CRITICISM OF NASSER- SADAT REMINDED THE STUDENTS THAT CRITICISM OF THE PAST IS NOT CRITICISM OF GAMAL ABDL EL-NASSER BUT IS A CRITICISM OF THE NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF THE EGYPTIAN EXPERIENCE. HE (SADAT) WAS ASRESPONSIBLE AS ANYONE FOR THE DECISIONS WHICHHAD BEEN TAKEN DURING THE PERIOD SINCE THE REVOLUTION.

8. STUDENT COMPLAINTS-IN RESPONSE TO STUDENT COMPLAINTS REGARDING UNIVERSITY LIFE, HOUSING, AND TEXT BOOKS, THE PRESIDENT SET UP A PERMANENT COMMITTEE FORMED OF STUDENTS TO STUDY ALL SUCH PROBLEMS AND SUBMIT THEM TO FIRST DEPTY PRIME MINISTER HEGAZY AND THE CONCERNED MINISTERS.

9. COMMENT: SADAT'S COMMENTS EMPHASIZING GOOD RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION ARE UNDERSTANDABLE IN CONTEXT OF STUDENT AUDIENCE, AND LEFTIST AND PRO-PALESTINIAN PERSUASION OF EGYPTIAN STUDENT BODIES. NEVERTHELESS, IT APPEARS TO US THAT WHILE AFFIRMING FRIENDSHIP FOR THE SOVIET UNION SADAT MANAGED TO GET IN A GOOD DOSE OF CRITICISM OF THE USSR AT THE SAME TIME. SADAT WILL CONTINUE HIS PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS WITH A MEETING WITH THE PRESS ON AUGUST 28. HE MAY WELL USE THIS OCCASION TO ELABORATE FURTHER ON HIS ""UN SOUND TUNE" STATEMENT WITH THEM ATTHAT TIME.
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